

CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. *(Currently amended)* A method of developing a technical standard in the process of product development comprising:

(a) generating a draft technical standard;
(b) electronically circulating a document with the draft technical standard to a review group;

(c) automatically attaching review group comments to the draft technical standard;

(d) electronically locking a document with the draft technical standard to provide a locked document, wherein locking said document prevents changes to be made to the draft technical standard unless the document is unlocked and wherein limited access is provided to unlock the document, whereby locking the document can prevent uncoordinated changes to the document;

(e) electronically circulating ~~a~~ the locked document with the draft technical standard to an approval group, the approval group members having access to the review group comments;

(f) collecting electronic approvals from each member of the approval group;

(g) rendering ~~a~~ the locked document with the draft technical standard unchangeable once each member of the approval group has electronically approved of the draft technical standard; and

(h) releasing ~~a~~ the document with the rendered technical standard for electronic access.

2. *(Previously amended)* A method of developing a technical standard as in claim 1 wherein generating a draft technical standard comprises:

(a)(i) electronically capturing a text-based document containing information relating to the draft technical standard; and

(a)(ii) electronically adding data-structured attributes to the captured document.

3. (Original) A method of developing a technical standard as in claim 2 further comprising searching for the technical standard based on the data-structured attributes.

4. (Original) A method of developing a technical standard as in claim 1 further comprising electronically tracking review and approval status.

5. (Previously amended) A method of developing a technical standard as in claim 1 further comprising electronically notifying specified users when a document with the technical standard is released.

6. (Previously amended) A method of developing a technical standard as in claim 1 further comprising storing a document with the released technical standard in a globally accessible database.

7. (Previously amended) A method of developing a technical standard as in claim 1 further comprising limiting access to documents with the technical standard based on user authorization.

8. (Original) A method of developing a technical standard as in claim 7 further comprising approving a user for authorized access by collecting at least one electronic approval.

9. (Original) A method of developing a technical standard as in claim 7 further comprising approving a user for authorized access based on a role assigned to the user.

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10. (Previously amended) A method of developing a technical standard as in claim 1 further comprising:

- (i) determining that the technical standard is to be modified;
- (j) incrementing the version of the technical standard; and
- (k) circulating a document with the incremented version technical standard to the approval group.

11. (Previously amended) A method of developing a technical standard as in claim 1 further comprising:

- (i) translating a document with the technical standard into at least one language/rendition different than a language/rendition in which the technical standard was generated; and
- (j) linking the translated technical standard to the technical standard.

12. (Original) A method of developing a technical standard as in claim 1 further comprising attaching additional documentation to the draft technical standard, the additional documentation accessible by members of the review group.

13. (Original) A method of developing a technical standard as in claim 1 further comprising printing the rendered technical standard with a watermark including the print date.

14. (Previously amended) A method of developing a technical standard as in claim 1 further comprising:

- (i) storing the technical standard in a rendered format; and
- (j) storing the technical standard in a native format.

15-26. (Canceled)

27-75. (Canceled)

76. (*Currently amended*) Computer-readable media having computer-readable instructions for performing a method of specifying a product comprising:

- (a) generating a draft technical standard;
- (b) electronically circulating a document with the draft technical standard to a review group;
- (c) automatically attaching review group comments to the draft technical standard;
- (d) electronically locking a document with the draft technical standard;
- (e) electronically circulating a locked document with the draft technical standard to an approval group to provide a locked document, the approval group members having access to the review group comments, wherein locking said document prevents changes to be made to the draft technical standard unless the document is unlocked and wherein limited access is provided to unlock the document, whereby locking the document can prevent uncoordinated changes to the document;
- (f) collecting electronic approvals from each member of the approval group;
- (g) rendering ~~a~~ the locked document with the technical standard unchangeable once each member of the approval group has electronically approved of the draft technical standard; and
- (h) releasing ~~a~~ the document with the rendered technical standard for electronic access.

77. (Canceled)